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EISNAUGLE, HOUSE HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL ENCOURAGE MCCOLLUM TO TAKE ACTION

*~Eisnaugle's HR 1561 Encourages Florida AG McCollum to Challenge Federal
Individual Health Mandates ~*

ORLANDO, FL – Today the House Health & Family Services Policy Council passed Representative Eric Eisnaugle's (R-Orlando) House Resolution (HR) 1561 that encourages Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum to file suit in federal court if Washington's healthcare bill forces an individual health insurance mandate on Floridians. Representative Eisnaugle and Attorney General McCollum contend that the Congress has no authority to compel individuals to purchase an unwanted product or service as a condition of living in the United States.

"We are troubled by the huge tax increases and debt that will be forced on Floridians at a time when they can least afford it," said Eisnaugle "The federal healthcare bill is just as fiscally irresponsible as it is constitutionally questionable. We have a strong case to be made in federal court. Individual mandates are inconsistent with the freedom upon which our country is founded."

Legal scholars question the constitutionality of federally-mandated healthcare while budget analysts worry that hundreds of millions of dollars in additional Medicaid costs would bankrupt the state. According to a recent Pew Center of the States report, Medicaid already costs states \$335 billion or 21 percent of all state expenditures. The Heritage Foundation estimates that under the current healthcare bill as passed in Congress, Florida's Medicaid program would expand by 54 percent.

"If allowed to stand, the healthcare bill that was arrogantly rammed through by Democrats in Washington will raise taxes, increase deficits, cut Medicare and expand Medicaid while imposing unconstitutional mandates and financial penalties on the American people," stated Florida House Majority Leader Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach).

(more)

"Beltway bureaucracy will now be imposed into the individual health choices of everyday Americans while raising costs and limiting choices. This new law is fundamentally flawed and I applaud Attorney General McCollum for fighting this federal intrusion with vigor and tenacity," concluded Hasner.

State legislatures and attorneys general in 37 other states have already voiced support for resolutions similar to Eisnagle's. Idaho and Virginia have passed a similar measure. Late last night, Congress passed a comprehensive healthcare package that mandates individual health insurance coverage.

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